

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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TRSE-00 /082 W

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R 211211Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6386

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18126

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: 8TH GERMAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: THE 8TH GERMAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE (NOVEMBER 17-19) IN BONN BROUGHT TOGETHER 150 POLITICIANS, SCHOLARS, JOURNALISTS AND BUSINESSMEN FROM THE U.S. AND THE FRG. THE CONFERENCE WAS DOMINATED BY DISCUSSIONS OF THE THREAT POSED TO WESTERN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND U.S.-GERMAN RELATIONS BY THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND THE ENERGY CRISIS. DISCUSSIONS WERE FRANK AND FOR THE MOST PART INTELLECTUALLY SERIOUS BUT NO CONSENSUS AS TO SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS EMERGED. ALL IN ALL THE MOOD OF THE CONFERENCE WAS ONE OF URGENCY. END SUMMARY

1. THE 8TH GERMAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE  
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AMERICAN COUNCIL ON GERMANY AND THE ATLANTIK-BRUECKE MET

IN BONN NOVEMBER 17-19. IT BROUGHT TOGETHER 150 INFLUENTIAL, POLITICIANS, SCHOLARS, BUSINESSMEN AND JOURNALISTS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. AMONG THE U.S. DELEGATES WERE SENATOR MCC. MATHIAS, AN EIGHTEEN-MAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION LED BY WAYNE HAYS, SCHOLARS (SCHULMAN, BRZEZINSKI, KAYSEN, BOWIE, ETC.), JOURNALISTS, AND BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERS SUCH AS JOHN MCCLOY, GERALD SMITH, SARGENT SHRIVER, EXXON CHAIRMAN JAMIESON. THE GERMAN DELEGATION INCLUDED PROMINENT POLITICAL LEADERS (SCHROEDER, KIEP, LAMBSDORFF, WISCHNEWSKI) SCHOLARS, JOURNALISTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMANY INDUSTRY (HENKEL, UNILEVER, CONTINENTAL RUBBER, ETC.). PANEL MEETINGS WERE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS.

2. THE OFFICIAL THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE WERE (1) GERMAN-U.S. RELATIONS AND (2) DETENTE. HOWEVER, THESE TOPICS WERE OVERSHADOWED BY THE GENERAL ANXIETY ABOUT THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. WHEN THE OFFICIAL CONFERENCE THEMES WERE IN FACT DISCUSSED IT WAS IN THE CONTEXT OF HOW THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION (INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES) MIGHT AFFECT DETENTE AND THE STABILITY OF THE WESTERN WORLD. THE USUAL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED UNDER THE HEADINGS, DETENTE AND U.S.-GERMAN RELATIONS -- MBFR, CSCE, U.S.TROOPS IN GERMANY, ETC. RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION. INSTEAD, ISSUES SUCH AS ACCESS TO OIL SUPPLIES, OIL PRICES AND THE PROBLEM OF RECYCLING OPEC PROFITS THROUGH THE WESTERN FINANCIAL MARKETS DOMINATED THE DIALOGUE.

3. COMPARED TO FORMER GERMAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCES THE MOOD WAS ONE OF URGENCY, CRISIS AND PESSIMISM. JOHN MCCLOY OPENED THE MEETING WITH A CALL FOR LEADERSHIP AND CREATIVITY TO MATCH THE POST WAR PERIOD. IT WAS CLEAR THROUGHOUT THE MEETINGS HOWEVER THAT THERE WAS LITTLE AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT A COMMON WESTERN EFFORT WAS REQUIRED. AT TIMES THE DISCUSSIONS WERE HEATED (SOME OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TOOK AFTER EXXON CHAIRMAN

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JAMIESON FOR EXCESSIVE OIL COMPANY PROFITS) BUT IN GENERAL THE TONE WAS NON-CONTENTIOUS, SERIOUS, WITH DIFFERENCES CUTTING ACROSS NATIONALITY LINES AND THE INTELLECTUAL LEVEL WAS HIGH.

4. DETENTE WAS CONSIDERED MAINLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE POSSIBLE LEVERAGE IT MIGHT PROVIDE TO OBTAIN SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN BRINGING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE

EAST IN EXCHANGE FOR WESTERN ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON U.S. AND SOVIET POWER AND INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD RESULTING FROM THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED NATIONS AND THE RAW MATERIALS SUPPLYING NATIONS ON THE ONE HAND AND THE LESS DEVELOPED WORLD ON THE OTHER.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 18126

5. A PAPER BY BROOKING'S FRED BERGSTEN CALLING FOR THE "ONLY TWO ECONOMIC SUPER POWERS -- THE U.S. AND THE FRG TO UNITE IN RESOLVING THE WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND RE-ESTABLISHING A STABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM" STIMULATED CONSIDERABLE DEBATE. MOST OF THE GERMANS REJECTED BERGSTEN'S ASSESSMENT OF GERMAN ECONOMIC STRENGTH

AND STABILITY AS OVER-GENEROUS. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT A U.S.-FRG BIGEMONY OVER EUROPE WOULD FORCE THE GERMANS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE AND WOULD KILL THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION MOVEMENT.

6. ALTHOUGH THE DISCUSSIONS OFTEN WERE DIFFUSED AND SOME SPEAKERS WANDERED PRETTY FAR AFIELD, THE GENERAL SENSE OF URGENCY AND THE FEELING OF PESSIMISM WERE SOBERING, GIVEN THE EXPERIENCE, WISDOM AND INFLUENTIAL  
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POSITIONS HELD BY MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS. HIGH-BLOWN RHETORIC ABOUT U.S.-GERMAN RELATIONS WAS ALMOST TOTALLY ABSENT AND THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT WESTERN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS MIGHT COLLAPSE IF FACED WITH ECONOMIC CHAOS THAT COULD RESULT FROM A NEW OIL BOYCOTT OR EVEN CONTINUED CURRENT OR INCREASED OIL PRICES. THESE NEW CHALLENGES TO NATO, THE EC, AND THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES, IT WAS AGREED, WERE LIKELY TO BE MORE SUBTLE AND COMPLEX THAN THE POSTWAR EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION AND REQUIRED A UNITED AND TIMELY RESPONSE.  
HILLENBRAND

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**TAGS:** PFOR, GE, US  
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